

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action dated October 21, 2004. Claims 34-42 are pending in the present application and have been rejected. Claims 34, 35, 37, 40 and 41 have been amended, and such amendments are fully supported by the specification. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 34-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Li et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,496). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the reasons as follows.

Claims 34, 37, and 40 recite a method, an apparatus, and a computer readable storage medium for providing context sensitive mapping of help informational items including, *inter alia*, a database record entry defining a relationship type, which designates relationship quality between two items, and a relationship strength, which designates a relationship quantity between two items. Specifically, the “relationship strength” as claimed “is based on historical frequency of selection from the originating location by a user of the help informational items that are related to the originating location.” This limitation represents the “context sensitive mapping” of the information items; the relationship strength represents the strength of the relationship between two particular help informational items by reflecting the frequency with which a help informational item is selected from another specific help informational item, namely the originating location. Accordingly, this claimed relationship strength does more than merely represent the frequency with which a help informational item is selected from any location. For example, because each record entry in the present claimed invention includes a relationship strength between two particular pages, a selection of one of those two pages from a third page would have no affect on the relationship strength between the initial two pages.

The *Li* reference fails to teach this claim limitation. In the system of *Li*, pages are ranked as a “product of the access frequency and the connectedness,” wherein the “access frequency” is merely the frequency with which a single user accesses a page from any location and “connectedness” is “the number of pages a user can reach from or to a page...” Col. 10, lines 32-60; *see also*, col. 14, line 60-Col. 15, line 12 (defining access frequency as “the number of accesses for a page over a specified period of time” and defining degree of referral as “the total

number of inward links to a document”). The “connectedness” factor clearly does not disclose or teach the present invention in that it merely represents URL’s or hyperlinks that are available to or from a page, not those links that are actually selected by a user as claimed. The “access frequency” factor also fails to disclose or teach the present limitation because it provides a high ranking for a page merely because it is frequently selected by a user. The claims recite a relationship strength that is a function of the frequency with which a page is selected from another specific page.

Additionally, the present claimed invention provides for mapping information items in the context of a help informational retrieval system. Because this system is employed in a help information context, conventional help topic content is made available to the user even when no relationship records have been entered into the database for a particular help informational item, as recited in claims 34, 37, and 40. That is, the help information retrieval system of the present invention supplies default help content, and such default help content is refined based on subsequently entered and updated relationship types and relationship strengths derived from system usage. However, even when no record with relationship types and relationship strengths yet exists for a particular help informational item, the default help content for that item is still presented to the user.

In contrast, traditional bookmark and hyperlink management systems, such as that of *Li*, only catalog and manage URL’s and web document associations that are derived from automated web crawling or monitoring a user’s Internet navigation. *See e.g.*, Col. 7, lines 46-52. These systems do not provide any information or results to a user unless the web documents have already been searched—either manually by a user or automatically by a crawler—and analyzed for extracting metadata into a database. Nowhere does *Li* or the other art of record disclose or teach presenting conventional help topic content to a user when there is no relationship record in the database for the requested help informational item as claimed. Accordingly, claims 34, 37, and 40 patentably distinguish from *Li*.

CONCLUSION

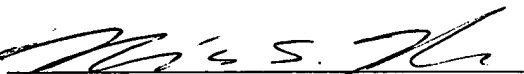
In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application and a favorable response are respectfully requested.

If a telephone would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the undersigned at 612-752-7367.

Respectfully submitted,

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